

# **TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS**

## **MINUTES OF THE SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 6, 2010**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

A special session of the Senior Services Advisory Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Jim Judge at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in the Navajo Room of the Fountain Hills Community Center at 13001 N. La Montana, Fountain Hills, AZ.

Chair Judge, Vice-Chair Patterson-Whitehead and Commissioners Cisak, McNamara, Florence and Whittaker represented the Senior Services Advisory Commission. Deputy Town Manager Julie Ghetti, Community Center Director Samantha Coffman, Senior Services Supervisor Kelley Fonville, and Sherry Bowland represented staff. Commissioner Jakubs represented the Community Center Advisory Committee. Councilmembers Cassie Hansen and Dennis Contino represented the Town Council.

### **ITEM # 1 CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Walt Dunne was present but did not wish to speak at this point.

### **ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2010 REGULAR MEETING**

At the request of Mr. Florence a deletion was made to the original minutes. Mr. Florence then made a motion that the amended minutes be approved. Ms McNamara seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **ITEM #3 DISCUSSION OF THE 2010/2011 BUDGET INCLUDING HOME DELIVERED MEALS, MEMBERSHIP, TRIPS, SUBSIDY AND REVENUE OPTIONS**

Next year Fountain View Village will charge \$6.48 per meal. In addition to the cost of meals the HDM budget includes the cost for insulated bags, postage for invoices, paper for route books and route sheets. The Town does not pay for meals but half of the clients are self-pay and the rest are subsidized by Area Agency or underwritten. Ms Patterson-Whitehead pointed out that there will not be a raise in social security and the clients depending on these meals will not be able to pay an additional \$2/meal as proposed by the budget committee. The average age of the HDM clients is 80 years old. This raise is unacceptable to the Commission. Ms Ghetti responded that the Town is still \$300,000 short at this point. Revenues are continuing to decline every month so the original projections keep changing. The Town does not have an additional \$20,000 to cover the HDM program. When the Council meets next week they will have to decide what to eliminate and what to keep. Mr. Judge asked the Council to give the HDM program the highest priority. Mr. Judge and Mr. Florence noted that this is the first time the Commission has really been involved in the budget process. The staff reduction of 40% (not filling either the Senior Aid or the Senior Activity Assistant positions) also needs to be reviewed as there is only one full-time position in the Senior Activity Center. This is not equitable with the reduction in the other departments. Ms McNamara suggested the Senior Activity Assistant position be filled with volunteers. Ms Hansen asked about the reduction in the number of members to which Ms Fonville replied that the reduction is due to fewer winter visitors, fewer trips and no mandatory membership for Bingo. Mr. Florence suggested that volunteers could offer much assistance with program development and education. The

possibility of the Community Center being closed on Sunday and Monday would further reduce membership. Ms Coffman replied that two classrooms are dedicated to Senior programs Monday-Friday from 8AM to 5PM and rarely do we have times when we cannot accommodate programs. Very rarely it occurs that a Senior program has to be moved elsewhere but it is a last resort and always the result of balancing needs and available space. Ms Patterson-Whitehead suggested an Adopt-A-Senior program as a revenue option which could possibly flow through Senior Services, Inc.. Commissioners agreed to recommend a \$.50 increase per HDM meal and a membership increase of \$3.00 annually. Ms Fonville pointed out that the difference would have to come out of another area in the budget based on those recommendations. Ms Hansen suggested that a letter with these recommendations be sent to Council immediately followed by an appearance before Council, possible next Tuesday at the budget workshop. Ms. Fonville reported that she is looking for sponsors for the Fall and Spring events however, the special events portion of the budget will be determined by what Council decides with the HDM and program budget.

#### **ITEM # 4 ADJOURNMENT**

Ms Patterson-Whitehead motioned for adjournment which was seconded by Ms McNamara and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2010

#### **Senior Services Advisory Commission**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Judge, Chair

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Coffman, Director  
Community Center/Senior Services

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelley Fonville, Senior Services Supervisor  
Senior Services

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Bowland/Recording Secretary

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Session held by the Senior Services Advisory Commission of Fountain Hills on the 6th day of April, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th Day of April, 2010

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Jim Judge  
Senior Services Advisory Commission